

**TGEI Steering Committee**  
Tennessee Tower – Davidson Room  
*February 18, 2005 11:30 am*

The meeting began at 11:40 am.

Members Present: Joe Swinford (Chair), Buddy Lea (Vice-Chair), Mike Dedman, Tracy Stinson, Karen Hale, Mike Hayes, Gabrielle Chapman, Tom Chester (Past Chair), Carol Freeman, Renee Jackson, Tracy Carter, Sam Chessor, Nancy Bernstein, and Lynn Goodman

Members Not Present: George Zukotynski, Brenda White, Marva Bradford, Brian Derrick,

- Lynn sent out minutes from previous meeting. Any corrections? Moved and seconded – approved.
- Buddy Lea is gathering information for the next newsletter. His self-imposed deadline is the end of next week.
- Carol is thinking about the website. If anyone has any ideas they should get them to her. Also, some people are getting multiple emails concerning TGEI info. Carol is working to correct this.
- Joe has not talked with Regan about the by-laws. The bank statement mailing address has now been corrected, however, and appears to be working fine. Karen Hale is now receiving it and Joe and Buddy are now on the signature list.
- Renee is the Chair for the Fall Conference and Christmas Breakfast this year and Carolyn Wilson from TGMI is the Vice Chair. From this year forward, there will be one chair and one vice chair (one from TGEI and one from TGMI). This should help by having only one person as the contact person and also allow MI and EI to both participate in the planning. It also should help by ensuring the Chair has had one year assisting and learning how to do the job. The Chair and Vice Chair roles will alternate between EI and MI each year.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> is the kickoff planning meeting for the conference and breakfast.

October 25<sup>th</sup> is the Fall Conference date. It is set to be at the library.

December 13<sup>th</sup> is the Holiday Breakfast date. It is set to be at Ellington.

Attendance at the Breakfast was unusually low last year. We will plan to send out a survey to all TGEI alumni by August to obtain input and try to increase attendance before completing plans for it this year.

- Brian was not present so we are not sure about the status of the proposed spring Golf Tournament. Joe mentioned that Brian has suggested it be in May at Henry Horton.
- Lynn stated that there will be a significant price increase this year for TGEI/TGMI. The cost in the past has been \$2,500 and there hasn't been any increase in this for almost a decade. The price may go as high as \$4,000 this year. Lynn has been negotiating with UT concerning the price. The MI announcement should go out March 1<sup>st</sup> and the EI announcement will go out after the deadline for MI has passed – probably mid-April. The dates/months will be similar to last year for both classes. Lynn stated that concerning the price increase, UT has lost money the past few years and that DOP is not using the RFP process this year but instead is using a Non-Negotiable contract process. If you have any speaker/topic suggestions, send them to Lynn.
- Lynn also mentioned that she received gift letters from Tennessee Voices for Children for the donation made in memory of Sandy Heath and from the Endowment for Chester Hughes.
- Discussion was held concerning who we send acknowledgements to when a death occurs to a TGEI alumni or a family member of an alumni. It was decided one would be sent to members only.
- Joe mentioned that GroupWise meeting announcements were sent to everyone for all steering committee meetings for the rest of the year. They will be adjusted if needed as the year progresses.
- Brenda will update the class reporter list.

### **New Business:**

- Joe asked “What do we as a group want to accomplish this year?” He stated that if our goal is to add a Golf Tournament and put on a Fall Conference and Holiday Breakfast and do it well that this is fine but just wanted to hear from the group.

Karen Hale suggested we might want to hold a different type social event sometime other than a sports related function. She suggested a dinner cruise on the General Jackson or a play at TPAC. Discussion was held that maybe one year our spring function might be something like that and one year it might be a sports related function.

- Buddy asked “What can we do to foster networking?”

Nancy suggested a TGEI Alumni Directory in Word that could be distributed to all TGEI alumni members. Nancy will look into this possibility and discuss further with Lynn.

Carol has a survey she will share with Joe about how to get input on networking.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Submitted by Nancy Bernstein